

We claim:

1. A method for use by an access point in a wireless communications environment wherein multiple channels are available for communication, comprising:

sending claim messages to other devices;

receiving claim messages from other devices;

using the claim messages it sends and receives to select a channel on which to communicate;

sending Announce messages to other devices to indicate the access point's presence and its protocol capability to the other devices;

receiving Bid messages from other devices, wherein a device sends a Bid message to the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point;

sending an Accept message to a device in response to a Bid message to indicate that the access point will allow the device to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving registration request messages from devices, wherein a device sends a registration request message to the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point using a particular protocol;

sending registration acknowledge messages to devices, wherein the access point sends a Registration acknowledge message to a device in response to a Registration Request message, to indicate that the access point understands that the device will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the Dynamic Radio Control Protocol.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein a Bid message is sent by a device to the access point if the device ascertains that the access point is likely to provide better wireless communications performance than another access point through which the device is currently communicating.